TL4915

EAST TIMOR: IT'S TIME TO TALK

Talks Campaign, c/- ACFOA Human Rights Office, 124 Napier Street, Fitzroy.
Ph. 03 417 7505

October 7, 1991

URGENT MEMO

Please attend to immediately

East Timor is on the agenda for the Australian Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's Inquiry into Australia's Relations With Indonesia. The East Timor Talks Campaign urges everyone interested in resolving the ongoing conflict on this disputed territory, to make a submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee by October 18.

Please see the following articles by the *Sunday Age*'s foreign editor John Schauble and *The Age*'s foreign editor Mark Baker for background information.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are "To investigate and report on Australia's relations with Indonesia with particular reference to:
a. economic relations including trade, investment and development assistance;
b. cultural, political and security issues; and
c. regional issues involving Australia and Indonesia.

The following advice is offered in order to assist those preparing submissions for the Committee's inquiry.

1. **Address the submission to:**
The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.
Chairperson: Dr AC Theophanous.
Secretary Ms M Swieringa. Ph 06 277 2671.

2. There is no set form for the submission. It can be as short or as long as you wish. It may contain facts, opinions and argument. It may also be accompanied by appendices and other supporting data. If it is lengthy, preface it with a brief summary.

3. The submission should be typed, preferably on A4 size paper, and relevant to the terms of reference of the inquiry.

4. Once the submission is received by the Committee it becomes the property of the Committee. A submission cannot be withdrawn or altered without the knowledge and approval of the Committee, nor may it or any portion of it be published or disclosed until the Committee or either House of the Parliament authorises its publication.

5. There may be parts of the submission which the author considers should not be published. In this case, the author may request that parts of the submission be kept confidential, those parts should be clearly identified in the submission. The Committee will consider the request however it does reserve the right to publish such evidence. This right is rarely exercised.

6. Authors of submission may be asked to give oral evidence before the Committee at a public hearing. Witnesses are normally called when the Committee considers that the inquiry will benefit from questioning the witnesses. Such questioning allows the witnesses to amplify the points made in the submission or to provide additional information.

If you would like to made recommendations to the Committee concerning the East Timor Talks Campaign's talks proposal and require further information, the staff at the ACFOA Human Rights Office, 124 Napier Street, Fitzroy, 3065 will be very happy to help you. Phone 03 417 7505. PLEASE ACT ON THIS IMMEDIATELY.

POSTSCRIPT

Dear Friend

Two important points of clarification:

1. Because there is not much time before the deadline of 18 October, you may like to consider simply writing a 'submission' in the form of a letter to the Committee of Inquiry. The purpose of the letter would be to convey continuing concern about East Timor and to urge the Committee to support 'talks without preconditions' between the East Timorese and Indonesia. (A resume of the case for talks is attached to assist you). We will submit a full-blown argument but would be helped by a good number of letters of concern and support from the community. Please send us a copy of your letter.

2. If you would prefer to submit a longer statement but do not have the time before October 18, it may be possible to obtain an extension of time from the Committee Secretary, Ms M Swieringa, tel. (06) 277071.

Many thanks and good luck!

Pat Walsh